



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):
Health Information Technology/Exchange (HIT/E)**

Kansas HITECH Plan

Background: As many of you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or “federal stimulus package” was recently signed into law by President Obama. Included in ARRA are several health related provisions that will have an impact on patients, providers, and purchasers in Kansas. Although a significant amount of the funding flows directly into specific Kansas programs (such as Medicaid – with an increased amount of federal matching funds), there are also some competitive funding opportunities, particularly for Health Information Technology (HIT) and Exchange (HIE). The provision of the stimulus bill that includes about \$19 billion to fund HIT and HIE projects is Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health, or **HITECH**. As shared with stakeholders’ groups, specifically the E-health Advisory Committee and the Medical Home Working Group, these new resources provide Kansas with a tremendous opportunity to build on past efforts related to the health information technology/exchange initiative. Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson has assembled a group of state leaders to prepare for implementation of the stimulus package in Kansas, of which KHPA Executive Director is a member. He has asked members of the Cabinet and other state leaders to strategize about how Kansas can compete for these federal funds. HIT and HIE have been a consistent focus of the Kansas Health Policy Authority’s long-term strategy for health reform in Kansas. There will be an even greater focus as the agency begins to collaborate with Cabinet Secretaries and stakeholders on ways to utilize these additional funds.

Partnerships: The KHPA through the E-health Advisory Council (with membership appointed by the Governor and KHPA) and under the direction of the Lieutenant Governor and Governor will be leading the initiative to obtain federal funding for the Kansas HITECH Plan. The goal is to use the HITECH dollars to advance health care coordination in the state and to improve health outcomes. Cabinet Secretaries in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and the Kansas Department of Aging (KDOA) have been asked to provide KHPA with their list of HIT/HIE projects that may qualify for HITECH funding consistent with overall goals. The Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC) and other stakeholders also have plans and projects consistent with federal stimulus funds. This information will be used in the development of the Kansas HITECH Plan; the engagement process for the development of this Plan is described below.

Plan for Engagement: KHPA is working with HISPC, the E-Health Advisory Council, the Medical Home Working Group, the Telemedicine/Telehealth Working Group and other interested parties to convene an all-stakeholders meeting to discuss potential HITECH projects for the state. The first all-stakeholders meeting is expected to be held in March. The goal of the steering committee will be to develop ways to use the HITECH dollars to advance health care coordination in the state and improve health outcomes. An email “list-serve” is being established to keep all interested parties apprised of these efforts. Committee updates and meeting materials will be posted to the KHPA website.

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